

OrdnanceReports

News updates from around the world



April 17, 2003



This publication is produced by the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps Communications Coordinator. The purpose of this publication is to provide Command Information materiel concerning world events and the U.S. military's role in those events. Ordnance specific events will be covered if appropriate. Direct your correspondence to Ed Starnes at 410-278-2415 (DSN 298-2415), or email edward.starnes@ocs.apg.army.mil.

Coalition special ops forces capture Saddam's half-brother

by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, April 17, 2003 – Coalition special operations forces captured Saddam Hussein's half-brother during a raid in Baghdad last night, U.S. Central Command officials said during a briefing from Qatar today.

Barzan Ibrahim Hasan al-Tikriti was an adviser to his half- brother, said Army Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks, deputy chief of operations for the command. Al-Tikriti was the "5" of clubs in the card deck issued to coalition forces showing the "most wanted" members of Saddam Hussein's regime. There were no coalition or enemy casualties, he said.

U.S. Marines aided the special operations forces in the capture. "The capture demonstrates the coalition's commitment to relentlessly pursuing the scattered remnants of a fractured regime," Brooks said. This action follows special operations forces capturing terrorist Abu Abbas April 14. Coalition special operators continue the hunt for other regime leaders.

Special operations forces have also worked to get Iraqi troops to capitulate in many cities and towns. "These efforts continue where remaining pockets of resistance are found," he said.

The Army's 4th Infantry Division, from Fort Hood, Texas, has arrived in the combat theater, Brooks said. Leading elements had their baptism to fire during a firefight near al Taji airfield north of Baghdad. The division killed and wounded a number of enemy forces, destroyed some T-72 tanks and captured more than 100 enemy fighters.

"The enemy force also had unmanned artillery pieces, armored personnel carriers and loaded multiple rocket launcher systems, a surface-to-air-missile warehouse and some computers," he said. Coalition experts are examining the site and materials.

In southern Iraq, British forces came under attack from irregular forces wielding rocket-propelled grenades, Brooks said. British personnel are still finding evidence of death squads as they patrol the city, but the security situation in the city is generally improving, said he noted.

Restoring power to Iraqi cities and villages is crucial to providing

humanitarian relief to the people. For example, water treatment facilities and water distribution systems depend on a dependable supply of electricity.

Restoring power in one area has a cascading effect through the country, Brooks said. He pointed out that coalition forces, working with Iraqi engineers, restored power to Kirkuk in the north.



Restoring power to that city also restores function to a natural gas complex there. Once that facility is running again, the gas gets pumped to the city of Mosul, where a gas-operated power plant will use it to run the hydroelectric power plant.

"Once power is restored there, the water distribution system in Mosul can also be restored," Brooks said.

After that, lines running to the town of Bayji can be activated, which will then push power into Baghdad and Tikrit. "So when we have successes like the Kirkuk power station being restored, it starts a sequence that rapidly improves conditions throughout (the country)," Brooks pointed out.

Coalition forces continue assessments throughout the country, Brooks said. Forces have examined restoring a number of hospitals to service. Teams of specialists are also combing the country looking for weapons of mass destruction.

Coalition forces are working with the Iraqi people to identify foreign fighters to be dealt them. "Iraq is more stable today than yesterday," he said. "Identified pockets of resistance are fewer than yesterday. And with the ever- increasing flow of humanitarian assistance, tomorrow shows great promise.

Doctors: rescued U.S. POWs in good health

by Panos Kakaviatos

LANDSTUHL, Germany (AP) - The seven American POWs rescued in Iraq are in good health but need "individual attention" to help them cope with the emotional toll of three weeks in captivity, military doctors said.

The seven got a much needed night of sleep after they were flown from Kuwait to the U.S. military's Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. On Thursday, they received thorough medical examinations.

"They're all in good shape," said Landstuhl spokeswoman Marie Shaw.

The POWs were freed Sunday by U.S. Marines south of Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit and taken to Kuwait, where they underwent initial medical checks and debriefings.

At Landstuhl, the seven were being further debriefed and were speaking with psychologists and a chaplain to help them deal with their ordeal.

"They bonded as prisoners when they were there, but they will each need individual attention," said a Landstuhl spokesman, Dan Unger.

Five of the freed prisoners were comrades of former POW Jessica Lynch from the U.S. Army's 507th Maintenance Support Company, which was ambushed in southern Iraq. The other two were helicopter pilots from the 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment.

After landing in Landstuhl on Wednesday night, six of the former POWs, dressed in military fatigues, walked down a C-141 aircraft's rear ramp, shaking hands with air base workers and waving at reporters.

U.S. Army Spc. Shoshana Johnson, 30, who was shot in the foot during the ambush, was carried off the plane on a stretcher. She was greeted by applause from a group of air base workers.

Also wounded was Spc. Edgar Hernandez, 21, who was shot in the elbow. The others did not appear to have serious physical injuries, officials said.

None of the group was expected to stay long at Landstuhl.

The freed members of the 507th Maintenance Support Company ambushed in the southern Iraqi city of Nasiriyah on March 23 are Johnson, Hernandez; Spc. Joseph Hudson, 23, Pfc. Patrick Miller, 23, and Sgt. James Riley, 31.

The pilots are Chief Warrant Officer David S. Williams, 30, and Chief Warrant Officer Ronald D. Young Jr., 26.

Landstuhl is the largest U.S. military hospital outside the United States, and so far has treated more than 200 patients with battlefield injuries from the war in Iraq.

Among them was Lynch, who was flown back to the United States on Saturday and was recuperating at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington. She was injured much more seriously than her comrades, suffering a head wound, a spinal injury and fractures to her right arm, both legs and her right foot and ankle.



An Iraqi man paints over the face of President Saddam Hussein at a former fedayeen training camp in Baghdad. Symbols of Hussein are disappearing throughout the capital. (LA Times photo by Carolyn Cole)



A U.S. Marine removes a portrait of Saddam Hussein from a classroom as they clear schools for their reopening, Wednesday, April 16, 2003, in Kut, 160 kms. south of Baghdad. (AP Photo/Wally Santana)

Reports: U.S.-North Korea talks set

WASHINGTON (AP) - The United States, North Korea and China will hold talks on North Korea's nuclear program next week in Beijing, according to published reports.

Secretary of State Colin Powell stopped short of announcing talks Tuesday, but said "a lot of pieces have come together" in his quest for multilateral discussions on Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program. He indicated he was pursuing arrangements through diplomatic channels.

"I'm not prepared to announce anything today with respect to meetings, attendance levels, what is multilateral and how best to get started and at what level," Powell said at a news conference.

"The one thing that is absolutely clear, is that at whatever level it starts, and with whatever attendance, it has to ultimately encompass the views and thoughts of all the neighbors in the region."

North Korea has recently signaled willingness to accept the U.S. approach after months of insisting on one-on-one talks with Washington.

Former POW Lynch asks public to redirect gift outpouring

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, April 17, 2003 – Pfc. Jessica Lynch, former Iraqi prisoner of war now receiving treatment at Walter Reed Army Medical Center here, has asked the public to send cards and letters in lieu of gifts and flowers.

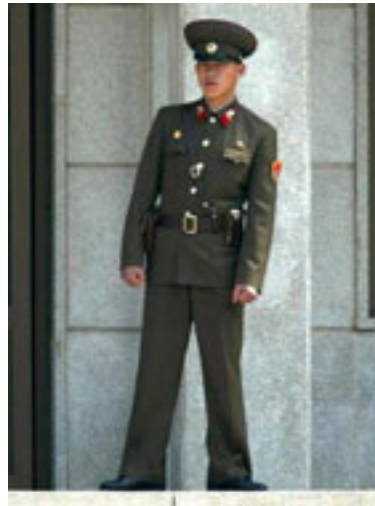
In a statement released by the medical center, Lynch said she the outpouring of gifts from well-wishers around the world has deeply touched her.

"While she appreciates the gifts, and they have done so much to lift her spirits and those of her family and countless hospitalized soldiers," according to the statement, "the volume is beginning to put a strain on the hospital's postal, medical and support staffs." Gifts have included candy, fruit baskets, T-shirts and stuffed animals.

The release said the family suggests the public donate money to charities such as Army Emergency Relief, Air Force Aid Society, Navy & Marine Corps Aid Society, American Red Cross, the United Services Organization and the Fisher House Foundation. "All of these organizations have a long record of helping service members in times of need," the statement read.

Cards or letters for Lynch should go to Pfc. Jessica Lynch, c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center, 6900 Georgia Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C., 20307-5001.

The family also asks the public to send personal mail for other Lynch family members to them in care of the post office at Palestine, W. Va., 26160. No post office box number or other address is necessary.



A North Korean soldier stands guard at the truce village of Panmunjom in the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea Wednesday April 16, 2003. Following U.S. successes in Iraq, North Korea on Saturday indicated a willingness to accept the U.S. approach to resolving the nuclear crisis after months of insisting on one-on-one talks with Washington. (AP Photo/Greg Baker)

Powell said the quick U.S. military success in Iraq may have influenced North Korea's thinking on opening diplomatic discussions.

The New York Times first reported on next week's meeting. The Washington Post subsequently cited unidentified U.S. and Japanese officials as saying there would be a meeting next week in China and the Kyodo news agency said it will be held on Wednesday.

State Department and White House officials did not return calls seeking comment late Tuesday.

At a minimum, Powell has wanted future talks to include the two Koreas, Japan, China and Russia as well as the United States. Until now, the North Koreans had ruled out any talks except one-on-one meetings with the United States.



CLOTHES LINE — A soldier with the 101st Airborne Division does his laundry GI-style during a moment of "down time". Clean clothes, showers, hot food and mail are the main things soldiers say they lack while in the field. U.S. Army photo by Pfc. James Matise

Pakistan, Afghan border forces trade fire

by Todd Pitman

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) - Afghan and Pakistani security forces traded automatic weapons fire along the rugged border but no casualties were reported, officials from both sides said Thursday.

The clash came as Afghan President Hamid Karzai prepared to visit Pakistan to discuss border security, among other things.

Afghan Interior Minister Ali Ahmad Jalali said Pakistani forces crossed into the eastern village of Ghulam Khan and clashed with Afghan troops before withdrawing. The area was now quiet, he said.

However, an Afghan military official in the eastern city of Khost gave a different account, saying about 600 Pakistani soldiers or border guards advanced into Afghanistan and still were two miles

inside the country.

"This is a direct incursion by Pakistan into Afghan territory. I can see them very easily. They're in uniforms. They have heavy weapons, tanks, artillery. They're very well-equipped," he said by satellite telephone.

Pakistan's Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmad denied the clash took place at all.

"We have excellent relations with Afghanistan, and our troops did not exchange fire with the Afghan army," he told The Associated Press in Islamabad, Pakistan's capital. "There is absolutely no truth in these speculative reports."

According to Pakistani trader Ahmad Khan, a group of Afghan soldiers crossed into Pakistan at a border town in the area of Ghulam Khan on Wednesday.

Pakistan security officials said a Pakistani unit was sent to the area to investigate and after a brief exchange of gunfire, the Afghans retreated. Pakistan reportedly sent additional forces to the region, about 180 miles southwest of the Pakistani city of Peshawar.

The two nations have not marked certain border areas since Pakistan gained independence from Britain in 1947 and allegations of violations are not uncommon.

But border security has been a major concern for the war against terrorism. Afghan authorities say elements of the former Taliban regime are launching cross-border attacks from Pakistan to destabilize Karzai's government.

On Sunday, the brother of the governor of Afghanistan's southern Kandahar province was shot at by men on a motorcycle as he traveled in the border area.

Afghan Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullah called the incidents "a cause of concern" Wednesday and said they would be addressed during Karzai's state visit to Pakistan on Tuesday.

"This is a serious thing for Afghanistan. It creates a lot tensions across this already unstable border," Jalali said.



BAGHDAD VISIT — Gen. Tommy Franks, commander, U.S. Central Command, walks through piles of rubble in Baghdad where a Tomahawk Land Attack Missile destroyed a portion of one of former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's many presidential palaces. U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class David K. Dismukes

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Second U.S. aircraft carrier leaves Persian Gulf

by Robert Burns

WASHINGTON (AP) - A second U.S. Navy aircraft carrier departed the Persian Gulf on Thursday, leaving only the USS Nimitz battle group on station in the Gulf, defense officials.

With the air campaign winding down, both the Navy and the Air Force are bringing aircraft home to allow pilots and crews a respite after one of the most intense air campaigns in history.

The USS Constellation, on its final overseas mission before going into retirement, left the Gulf Thursday, one day after the carrier USS Kitty Hawk departed for its homeport in Yokosuka, Japan, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Two other carriers that participated in the air war from positions in the eastern Mediterranean - the USS Harry S. Truman and the USS Theodore Roosevelt - are going to alternate on port visits in the Mediterranean in coming days but not head home yet, the officials said.

The war's commander, Gen. Tommy Franks, briefed President Bush from inside one of Saddam Hussein's palaces in Baghdad Wednesday. In visible disgust at the opulence, Franks said, "It's the oil for palace program" - a biting reference to the U.N. oil-for-food effort.

At the Pentagon, Maj. Gen. Stanley McChrystal said Franks probably would move some sort of military headquarters operation into Iraq soon.

"Whether it will be located in Baghdad proper, I can't say," McChrystal, vice director of operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters. "But at some point, I think as he transitions to the next phase, he would probably recommend and stand up that kind of headquarters and put it right within Iraq."

The head of U.S. reconstruction efforts in Iraq, retired Lt. Gen. Jay Garner, also is expected to move his headquarters into Iraq from Kuwait soon. Garner held a meeting Tuesday in the ancient city of Ur to bring together about 80 representatives of various groups within Iraq to begin discussions about a post-Saddam government.

In northern Iraq, a confrontation under murky circumstances around a bank in the city of Mosul Wednesday left three Iraqis dead. Some Iraqis charged they were innocent victims shot down when local police tried to drive away looters. U.S. military officials said they



The USS Kitty Hawk and USS Constellation, the Navys two remaining Kitty Hawk Class aircraft carriers, underway together in the Persian Gulf Sunday, April 13, 2003. (AP Photos/U.S. Navy/ Adam Gomez.)

had no clear information about the incident.

In Washington, the Pentagon's top budget officer said Wednesday the Iraq war has cost at least \$20 billion and probably will consume that much or more in the remaining five months of the federal budget year that ends Sept. 30.

An additional \$5 billion to \$7 billion will be needed to pay for getting U.S. troops from the Persian Gulf region to their home bases, officials said. That process is just now beginning.

Those totals do not include the yet-to-be-calculated sums for postwar reconstruction of Iraq, the Defense Department's comptroller said at a news conference. The United States is counting on contributions from other countries to pay part of the rebuilding cost.

Dov Zakheim said military operations in Iraq to date have cost about \$10 billion to \$12 billion. Personnel costs have been about \$6 billion and the cost of munitions has been more than \$3 billion. The figures include what it cost to move 250,000 troops to the Persian Gulf area.

In human costs, the Pentagon said Thursday the war's official death rose by one to 126. It did not immediately have information about the latest death. On Wednesday the Pentagon identified the remains of Marine Cpl. Kemaphoom A. Chanawongse, 22, of Waterford, Conn., who was killed in a March 23 firefight near Nasiriyah, Iraq. He had previously been listed as missing in action. There are now three Americans listed as missing.

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JPRA helps return captives to normal life

by Sgt. 1st Class Sample, USA, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, April 17, 2003 — It's going to take more than returning Pfc. Jessica Lynch to the United States for her to get back to a normal life.

Much the same could be said about the seven prisoners of war — her five unit comrades and two pilots — rescued April 13.

After spending eight days in Iraqi captivity and a nearly equal amount of time recuperating at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, Lynch returned to the United States on April 12.

However, while she continues her recovery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, it may take some time before she returns emotionally, emphasized Gary Percival, a psychologist at the Joint Personnel Recovery Agency.

The agency, part of the Joint Forces Command, helps return captured U.S. service members and DoD civilians and contractors to "friendly" control through the repatriation process.

The process includes providing physical and psychological care; intelligence debriefings; decompression time; and helping with family, organization and unit reunions. Media awareness training is also provided, as well as support for families, said Col. Randy Moulton, JPRA commander.

For most detainees a key component of repatriation is dealing with the trauma that comes with being held against one's will — to get them "back into their jobs and back into society, back into their family," Percival said.

He said that Lynch, who has seen a JPRA psychologist during her recovery, will need support while reintegrating into society and regaining a sense of normalcy in her life.

"When you first come out of a captivity situation or an isolation event, you're probably going to have nightmares, sleep disturbances

and some fear reactions," Percival said.

"This is a normal response to what has happened to you," he added, but it's treated "as normal people adjusting to an abnormal event."

JPRA is also responsible for recovering military personnel and government civilians who are POWs or hostages. The agency also handles peacetime governmental detainees, such as the Navy EP-3 crew held in China for 11 days in April 2001.

The Navy reconnaissance aircraft and its 23-member crew was forced to land on China's Hainan Island after it survived a mid-air collision with a Chinese jet fighter April 1.

When a service member becomes missing in action or captured, the first act is to immediately report the incident and then locate the individual, said Moulton. He noted the agency also assists combatant commanders in supporting individuals in captivity.

Once the individual is located, recovery planning begins immediately to return the service member to safety. "That's where repatriation comes in," he added.

"The goal of repatriation is to ensure the successful reintegration of the service member both professionally and personally," Moulton explained.

Since her rescue, Lynch has been under the care of a specially trained mental health professional, called a SERE psychologist. That acronym (pronounced "seer") stands for survival, evasion, resistance and escape.

About 30 SERE psychologists in the military help recovering detainees through a three-phase repatriation process.

Percival said the initial receipt and recovery stage is when detainees

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Former POWs Chief Warrant Officer David S. Williams, Army Spc. Edgar Hernandez, Sgt. James Riley, and Army Spc. Joseph Hudson from left are welcomed by Air Force Brigadier General Erwin F. Lessel, III, Commander of the 86th Airlift Wing after leaving a C-141 military plane at the US Air Base, Ramstein, southern Germany, Wednesday, April 16, 2003. A total of seven POWs who were rescued last Sunday in Iraq will be taken for medical treatment to the nearby Landstuhl Medical Center. Army member in foreground not identified. (AP Photo/Michael Sohn)

U.S. troops step up hunt for al-Qaida

by D'Arcy Doran

KHAR BOLAH, Afghanistan (AP) - The chatter of the metal detector turned to a solid hum when it reached the center of the house's mud-baked floor. Sgt. Derrick Edwards dug his fingers into the earth, prying apart the flat stones. He shined his flashlight at the dark hollow below.

"It's a weapon," he called out, as the light caught the grip and metal of a rocket-propelled grenade launcher.

Eighteen months after U.S.-led forces drove out the Taliban regime, search missions like this one, dubbed Operation Crackdown, show that dangers still lurk in the barren Afghan landscape.

The surprise raid on Khar Bolah, a village 50 miles southwest of Kabul, was the latest in the hunt for weapons used by Taliban remnants and their al-Qaida allies, who continue to attack coalition forces and the country's fragile interim government.

Two U.S. soldiers were killed in an ambush in southern Afghanistan last month, and U.S. bases or positions frequently come under rocket fire.

Children with muddy faces and women in bright pink, blue and green veils stepped outside their compounds as a dozen helicopters arrived, filling the valley with clouds of dust.

The villagers repeatedly denied having weapons, insisting all arms were surrendered to the Defense Ministry months ago.

The door-to-door search took several hours. By the end of the afternoon, the 82nd Airborne's 504th and 505th parachute regiment

had uncovered 1,500 pounds of weapons and munitions, said Lt. Col. Mike Lerario, the mission commander.

It was one of the largest caches found yet in an Afghan village, he said. The hidden weapons included 271 rocket-propelled grenades and hundreds of rounds of heavy ammunition, the army said in a statement.

Nearly half came from the home of Mohammed Amin. Wearing a green striped vest and a white skull cap, he stood with arms crossed and face blank as he watched soldiers remove grenade after grenade.

"I just keep it," Amin said, when asked why he had the ammunition. "I don't know, someday I might need it."

When Sgt. Dale Kearney came to Amin's home accompanied by engineers with metal detectors, Amin pointed to a section of the wall. The soldiers broke through the wall to reveal a space packed with ammunition. Even more was found in a shed in the yard.

"I don't think they want this stuff here," said Kearney, of Spokane, Wash. "They're just tired of fighting. If it's not here, there's no reason for al-Qaida to come here."

The village appeared to have weathered the Taliban regime better than many others the army has visited, Command Sgt. Maj. Hoyle Hodges said. He pointed out two relatively new water pumps, the glass windows and the healthy condition of the livestock.

"At minimum they were cooperating with the Taliban," said Hodges of Mancos, Colo. "It was probably for monetary compensation."

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Finding Saddam's weapons



Sgt. Arturo Aguirre, 25, of Odennell, Texas, stacks crates of hidden Iraqi munitions in the back of a vehicle at a fun park that the Iraqi military used to store munitions in Baghdad. Photo by Rob Curtis, Military Times.



U.S. Marines throw AK-47 automatic rifles to a truck bound for destruction in Salah Al-Deen Military Hospital in the northern Iraqi town of Tikrit, Wednesday April 16, 2003. A huge arms cache consisting of thousands of rifles, ammunition and mines were found in the hospital of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit, and the U.S. forces started to destroy the old ones and moving the new to an undisclosed depot for future use. (AP Photo/Lefteris Pitarakis)

JPRA helps return captives to normal life continued

are brought back into a safe area. There they are treated medically, and if healthy enough, debriefed about their captivity “to learn of time-sensitive information that will protect lives.”

Phase 2 is focused on what’s referred to as “decompression time.” There detainees are given at least 72 hours “to put their lives together before they go out and face the world,” he noted.

This phase gives them “time to come to grips with what has occurred and gives them a chance to tell someone what happened,” he added.

Percival said the final phase is the most critical: when detainees are transferred home or to their home installation.

During this phase the detainee receives ongoing medical care and more debriefings. They also get to meet with family and prepared for the onslaught of public, including the media, and political attention.

“Typically detainees don’t know what to tell their family, or how to talk with them. The families may want to overwhelm them,” he explained. “But you have to give them time to come to grips with what happened. They are a lot healthier in the long run if you give them that time to decompress.”

Percival said that families, military commanders, the media and politicians should understand that detainees need time to readjust to life.

“Everybody wants to do what they think is best for the detainee, but what they think is the best is often times harmful,” Percival explained.

He said that detainees should be allowed to make their own choices, to be able to “predict and control” what happens in their lives.

“If you think about someone who has been isolated — that has been in a situation where they have no ability to predict and control, where they have someone tell them when to the bathroom, when to eat, when to lie down, when to sleep — sometimes well-wishers put them in that same position,” he said.

Percival noted that Lynch may already be in that position. Her life is already being put under control, her future planned.

In Lynch’s hometown of Palestine, W. Va., parades and celebrations are being anticipated. And reportedly she’s been offered a financial assistance to attend college and a teaching job once she graduates. In addition, one network is already negotiating a television movie about her ordeal.

With her medical ongoing treatment and repatriation process, Lynch has had no public appearances to date. However, on April 17, Walter Reed issued a statement on her behalf. In it, she expressed that well-wishers should send cards and letters in lieu of gifts and flowers to her in care of Walter Reed Army Medical Center, 6900 Georgia Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C., 20307-5001.

How each detainee deals with the return home is an “individual process,” what’s best for him or her, Percival said.

JPRA’s repatriation process provides support and follow up to a year, he noted. “We owe it to them.”



US troops take cover from hostile fire near the al-Rasheed hotel in Baghdad Thursday, April 17, 2003. U.S. Special Forces on Thursday captured Barzan Ibrahim Hasan al-Tikriti, a half-brother of Saddam Hussein and a major catch in the effort to roundup members of the former regime. (AP Photo/Dusan Vranic)

Troops uncover 3 Afghan weapons caches

BAGRAM, Afghanistan (AP) - Coalition forces have found three caches of heavy ammunition, including anti-tank rockets, anti-aircraft rounds and rocket-propelled grenades in southeast Afghanistan, an army spokesman said Thursday.

The U.S. Task Force Devil found 271 rocket-propelled grenades, four RPG launchers, 40 mortar rounds and hundreds of cases of ammunition for heavy machine guns in the village of Khar Bolah in Ghazni province Wednesday, Army spokesman Col. Roger King told a news briefing. Khar Bolah is 50 miles south of the capital, Kabul.

“That’s heavy machine gun ammunition and it’s not something that they would use for the defense of their homes or hunting. This is big stuff,” King said.

Romanian troops found two other caches of unspecified amounts of grenades and 107 mm rockets near the town of Qalat in Zabul province, he said. Qalat is about 220 miles southwest of Kabul.

Both operations are part of an intensified hunt for weapons hidden by the remnants of al-Qaida or the ousted Taliban regime for use against coalition forces.

Meanwhile, Pakistani authorities sent additional forces to a remote northwestern tribal region Thursday following an exchange of gunfire between the border guards of Pakistan and Afghanistan, residents and officials said.

The clash took place at Ghulam Mohammed border town, 180 miles



Afghan mine removal technicians march during a parade at Kabul’s stadium in Afghanistan, Wednesday, April 16, 2003. In the last 13 years of mine clearing operations, an estimated 100 deminers have been killed and 500 more have been injured. Afghanistan, struggling to recover from over two decades of warfare, is one of the most heavily mined nations on earth. (AP Photo/Silvia Izquierdo)

southwest of Peshawar Wednesday, when some Afghan soldiers allegedly crossed into Pakistan, local trader Ahmad Khan said.

There were no injuries on either side, and the Afghan soldiers moved back after a brief exchange of fire, a Pakistani official said on condition of anonymity.

The two sides have not demarcated certain border areas since Pakistan gained independence from Britain in 1947.

U.S. troops arriving in Philippines for “shoulder to shoulder” exercise

By Jim Gomez

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - The bulk of about 1,200 American soldiers are arriving this week for a major war exercise with Filipino troops aimed at enhancing their combat readiness against security threats and terrorists, military officials said Wednesday.

A chartered ship carrying more than 450 American military personnel, equipment and weapons is expected to arrive on Thursday under heavy guard in the former U.S. naval base in Subic Bay, north of Manila.

The April 25-May 9 exercise, dubbed Balikatan or “shoulder to shoulder,” will be held at the former Clark Air Force base and two Philippine military camps near Manila on the main northern island of Luzon.

The annual maneuvers are different from Balikatan training exercises, which are being planned by U.S. and Philippine defense officials for later this year on the violent southern island of Jolo. Officials hope

the training will help Filipino troops there to wipe out Abu Sayyaf Muslim extremist guerrillas who have been linked to al-Qaida.

In military action in the southern Philippines, an army official said Philippine government troops killed eight Muslim rebels in a fierce gunbattle near a former guerrilla stronghold.

Two soldiers were injured in Tuesday’s fighting along a strategic road in Matanog near Camp Abubakar, the former headquarters of the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front seized by the military three years ago, said Maj. Gen. Generoso Senga.

Rebel spokesman Eid Kabalu, however, denied his comrades suffered casualties and claimed that three soldiers were killed.

Camp Abubakar, along with 45 other smaller MILF bases, fell during a massive military offensive in June 2000 that forced the rebels to shift back to hit-and-run guerrilla attacks. Since Abubakar’s capture, the rebels have staged futile attempts to wrest back control of the camp.

Military life has its diplomatic aspects, too

by David Allen, Stars and Stripes

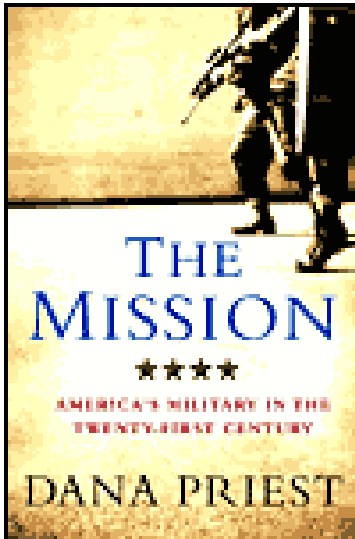
CAMPFOSTER, Okinawa — Lt. Gen. Wallace Gregson smiles when asked if he's as much a diplomat as a war fighter.

"I think it all runs together," said the commander of all U.S. Marines in Japan. "What people call diplomacy is all part of being a general. It's a major part of what we do."

Servicemembers interact with local populations every day, he said. Each Marine base has a community relations department to help facilitate good relations.

It's so much of what he does, that it's hard to pin him down for an interview at his office on Camp Foster. Sometimes the trips away from home are planning sessions with the major military commands that oversee Far East security. But often, he's busy glad-handing government officials in areas where his Marines are deployed.

"To one degree or another, all military members act as diplomats for our nation," said Air Force Col. Victor L. Warzinski, U.S. Forces Japan's public affairs director. Residents with whom forces regularly interact "will draw their conclusions about America and Americans based on how we conduct ourselves."



In the book "The Mission: Waging War and Keeping Peace With America's Military," Washington Post reporter Dana Priest describes an American empire held together by what she calls "CINCDoms," the five regional commanders, and commanders such as Gregson.

She calls the CINCs "proconsuls to the empire," postulating they've become more independent and influential than the ambassadors of the countries they cover.

The power they wield and the assets at their command are enormous, Priest says. In the State Department, only Secretary of State Colin Powell has an airplane at his disposal; each commander has a jet and a fleet of helicopters.

But there is a danger, notes a review of Priest's book in a recent issue of Foreign Affairs:

The commanders "get high marks, but Priest is right to observe a larger problem: The disproportionate resources available to the military, compared with civil agencies, introduces an inevitable distortion into how the United States deals with difficult parts of the world."

The United States relies too heavily on its military to act as diplomats in areas that stray far from regional defense issues, Priest concludes.

"These generals and admirals are quite skilled, even if they are not truly trained in diplomacy," said Michael O'Hanlon, a senior fellow with the Brookings Institution. "But perhaps, we still defer to them too much. Because of their regional focus, and the resources at their disposal, and the desire of many countries to associate with the U.S. military, they have appeal that diplomats normally do not."

The 'good neighbor'

In South Korea, Gen. Leon J. LaPorte wears the command hats for the United Nations Command, South Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command and U.S. Forces Korea. The general declined to be interviewed by Stars and Stripes about diplomatic aspects of his job. But since taking command last spring, much of his work has entailed work normally associated with diplomacy.

For instance, a central focus of his command has been improving the U.S.-South Korean alliance. LaPorte has created a "good neighbor" program to improve relations between the military and civilian communities. LaPorte has said the program will improve relations not only between the bases and adjacent communities but also with the media, universities and South Korea's military. USFK is establishing a Korean-language Web site and hot line and has designated May as "Good Neighbor Month."

"We've always been good neighbors, but we've made a considerable effort over the past six months to become better neighbors," he told the Korea Times. "We've raised the bar quite a bit in terms of our good neighbor program."

Gregson said the military is well suited to carry out such programs. The military has greater resources than the State Department, he said, but he stressed that the two cooperate closely.

"We help out the local State Department folks by bringing in resources they don't otherwise have," Gregson said.

"In a bigger sense, humanitarian assistance is all part of the whole training package and the whole training mission," he said. "The pure, straight, strict military action is only one piece of it."

"The essential point is that we have far more people in direct contact with the various populations," Gregson said. "And we have far more resources that we can put forth on a problem than an ambassador can."

That may be put to the test in Iraq, as the United States steps in to run the country until a new government is formed. Heading the interim government will be retired Army Lt. Gen. Jay Garner, the Pentagon's Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance director.

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NATO to take over Afghan peacekeeping

by Constant Brand

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) - NATO agreed Wednesday to take command of the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Afghanistan.

Ambassadors for the 19 alliance members approved requests that it run a command headquarters for the ongoing operation in the Afghan capital Kabul, said NATO spokesman Yves Brodeur.

He said Germany asked NATO take over the mission - now under joint Dutch-German command - for the sake of continuity.

"There was a growing problem in having to switch command every six months, and there are only a limited number of nations that can lead such a mission," said Brodeur. "The enlarged NATO role is going to help overcome this problem."

NATO will send military personnel to run the military headquarters in Kabul and will provide a military commander to run the operation, which will be appointed by the alliance's Supreme Allied Commander, U.S. Marine Corps General James L. Jones.

NATO was expected to take command of the 4,000 strong force sometime in late summer at the earliest, Brodeur added.

In other action, NATO-led peacekeepers uncovered a large cache of ammunition, guns and mines in homes in the Serb-controlled part of Bosnia, an alliance official there said.

Military life has its diplomatic aspects, too continued

Fixing what was broken

His resume demonstrates a fact of modern military operations, Gregson said: If the military is ordered to tear something apart, "You've got to make sure you can put it all back together. The best example of this is the Marshall Plan after World War II."

All command post exercises, he said, include portions on what to do with refugees, nongovernmental organizations and other noncombat situations the troops might face.

In postwar Kosovo, Priest said, she observed soldiers who found themselves serving as police chiefs, social workers and arbiters of property disputes. One officer admitted, "We were making it up as we go along."

"There's no formal program that goes directly at the question — how to do negotiations, how to do this type of stuff," Gregson said. Much of what he does, he said, was learned by on-the-job-training, watching his predecessors.

"I'd watch Gen. Frank Libutti," he said of his former boss. "I used to watch him sip a lot of tea and work with folks."

Gregson was interviewed before the war in Iraq began, where Marines

Soldiers searching several private homes in the village of Seljani, about 35 miles east of Sarajevo, found the weapons on Tuesday, said spokesman Capt. Tommaso Magistretti.

Also Wednesday, with the war winding down in Iraq, the alliance decided to end its three month defensive deployment in Turkey, which said it no longer felt threatened.

In a statement, NATO said it felt that Iraq "can no longer generate the military capability to threaten the security of Turkey."

U.S. troops step up hunt for al-Qaida continued

The soldiers returned AK-47s and hunting rifles to the villagers so they could defend themselves from bandits. Explosives experts destroyed all the other weapons about 1,000 yards away from the village. The huge explosion made the valley glow pink for a few seconds after dark.

"I don't believe we found everything, there is probably still more in there. The problem is how intrusive do you get," Hodges said. "You have to balance how negative an impression you want to leave with how much weapons you want to pull out."

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are being challenged on a much greater scale.

"It's the natural instinct of Americans to take care of people in harm's way — to help the less fortunate," he said. "I'd argue, that whatever I do at the flag level would be invalidated and useless if it was not filtered down to the junior folks."

Priest is critical of the military's role in shaping foreign policy, claiming the United States has become too dependent on its military to carry out diplomacy and humanitarian relief.

"When the fighting stops in Iraq," she wrote, "the U.S. military — 22-year-old infantry soldiers — will again be given the lead in rebuilding civilian society there, a mission that easily could take more than 10 years.

"There is no strong alternative to the military," she said in an online chat on the Washington Post Web site in February, predicting that post-war Iraq would be run by "large U.S. troop concentrations all over the country — with brigade-level garrisons.

"When force protection is a major concern, the mission of rebuilding gets hampered by orders that troops must move in four-vehicle convoys, can't go out at night, etc. Attitude tends to be a hunker-down mentality rather than the kind of 'hearts and minds' outreach that everyone agrees is needed."

Buyers beware: The real Iraq 'most wanted' cards are still awaiting distribution

by Lisa Burgess,
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Pentagon's "55 most wanted" playing cards are turning into the hottest collector's item since Beanie Babies, but with an ugly twist: unscrupulous sellers are offering "real" cards that were never produced by the U.S. government.

Meanwhile, Pentagon officials say, those decks that have been printed — fewer than 200, total — are still sitting at U.S. Central Command headquarters, waiting for distribution to selected troops in Iraq.

The cards made their debut during a CENTCOM briefing from Doha, Qatar, on April 11, when Army Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks displayed a deck emblazoned with the faces of 55 key Iraqi regime leaders that U.S. troops are supposed to pursue, kill or capture.

Each deck has two Jokers, one showing Iraqi military ranks and the other Arab tribal titles. Saddam Hussein is depicted on the ace of spades.

From the moment Brooks waved the cards, Pentagon and CENTCOM officials have been besieged with requests for the decks.

"Everyone wants them," a weary Pentagon official said. They say, 'Not for me, you understand — for my mother,' or 'my friend,' or 'my cat' or whatever. But we've never had a set here."

The troops don't have the cards yet, either, according to Pentagon spokeswoman Megan Fox.

"The cards have been sent to CENTCOM, but they have not been distributed yet," Fox said Tuesday, after speaking to an official in Qatar.

Meanwhile, there are fewer than 200 actual decks to be handed out, according to Navy Lt. Cmdr. Jim Brooks, a spokesman for the Defense Intelligence Agency.

"CENTCOM asked for a couple hundred [decks], and we made them in our own print shop and sent an initial shipment out before the war," Brooks said in a Tuesday telephone interview.

But Central Command never asked for more cards beyond the original 200 sets, Brooks said.

"If they had wanted more, we were prepared to have a [commercial] contractor do it for us, but they didn't ask," Brooks said.

What is readily available is a computer "PDF" file that allows anyone with Internet access to download the playing card templates for free.

Pentagon officials quickly decided to make the PDF files available after getting swamped with requests for the cards, Brooks said.

"With such a large interest, it was the only thing I could do," Brooks said. "The money to make the cards comes out of operational funds, and that means taxpayer dollars. There was no way we were going to print up a bunch of giveaways" just to satisfy collectors, Brooks said.

The "Iraq 55" cards were developed by DIA specialists who knew about the old American tradition of using playing cards to help troops learn more about the enemy.

Such playing cards have been used as far back as the Civil War, Brooks said, again in World War II — Army Air Corps decks printed with the silhouettes of German and Japanese fighter aircraft fetch hundreds of dollars today — and in the Korean War.

Troops often play cards to pass the time, and seeing the names, faces and titles of the wanted Iraqis during their games will help soldiers and Marines in case they run into the wanted individuals in the field, Brooks said.

The cards, Brooks said, "are nothing fancy. The corners aren't rounded, and the paper stock is the best we had at the time, but these were never meant to be a collector or novelty item. It's just a handy guide to the guys in the field," Brooks said.

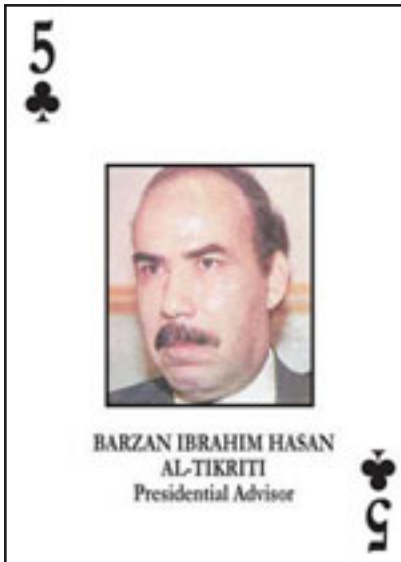
"They're just a tool."

But in true American fashion, entrepreneurs see something else in the cards: dollar signs.

Less than a week since the public learned about the playing cards, sellers have burst out of the woodwork, ready and eager to offer "the real thing" to gullible buyers.

By Tuesday, there were more than 243 Iraq card decks and card-related items on sale on the online auction site eBay.

Some of the sellers clearly state that they have used government-



A Singer, a song and America's armed forces

by Linda D. Kozaryn, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, April 16, 2003 – Everyone knows Donald H. Rumsfeld is one tough hombre. Yet today, a country singer made the straight-talking, no-nonsense defense secretary wipe tears from his eyes.

Darryl Worley gave a 45-minute concert at the Pentagon for several hundred service members, civilian employees and family members this morning. The show was broadcast live to troops overseas.

After singing a mix of down-home country songs, with an extra dollop of patriotism, Worley introduced his chart-topping hit "Have You Forgotten." He said he wrote the tune after a USO trip to Afghanistan and the Middle East in December 2002.

"I wanted to do something to pay back the soldiers for what they'd done for me and for us as a country, to bring some honor and respect to them," he explained. The song's release coincided with the coalition's war against Iraq and, for many, it carried a strong message of support for the global war on terrorism.

"Now, it's been called a pro-war song," Worley told Rumsfeld, Air Force Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Pentagon crowd. "If that means that I support my president and the conflict that we just took care of over there, then I guess that's what it is if that's what it has to be. But it's a whole lot more to me. It's a pro-America song. It's a pro-military song."

As the crowd whooped and hollered, the Defense Department's senior leaders reacted as well. Myers applauded heartily, and in a rare show of emotion, a red-eyed Rumsfeld twice took off his glasses to wipe away tears.

Center stage, Worley went on to say that after he recorded the song, he thought, "What I would give if I was back in Afghanistan, or in Iraq, or wherever those guys and gals are, and I could stand up before them and play this song. They would know that what they had asked me to do when I got back home, that I was serious about it."

Speaking through the camera to the troops overseas, the country star said, "This is for y'all over there. I love you."

Then Worley sang, "Here people say, we don't need this war, but I say there's some things worth fighting for. What about our freedom, this piece of ground? We didn't get to keep 'em, by backing down." Myers clapped and Rumsfeld shook his fists in the air.

Worley sang his refrain: "Have you forgotten how it felt that day, to see your homeland under fire and our people blown away? Have



Country music star Darryl Worley entertains service members, civilian employees and family members at the Pentagon courtyard April 16. Defense Dept. photo by Helene C. Stikkel.

you forgotten when those towers fell, we had neighbors still inside going through a living hell? And you say we shouldn't worry about Bin Laden. Have you forgotten?"

As the crowd went wild, a smiling Rumsfeld clapped vigorously. He'd said he was a Worley fan, and it was obvious he meant it.



In an interview prior to the concert, Worley talked about his bond with the military.

"We grew up in a real patriotic family," he said "My parents and grandparents are very much the kind of people that would set you down and say this is why we live the way we live. My grandfather on my dad's side was the youngest of five boys. When he was 9 years old, all four older brothers had to go to the war.

"Growing up," he continued, "there were a lot of different family members who were military – Navy, Air Force, Army. I had one cousin who died in World War II who was a Marine. It's kind of still that way. There's quite a few first cousins and uncles in the military."

Worley noted that after he graduated from high school he wanted to join the military. "I wanted to fly jets, but I was told that I was too tall for the job," the 6-foot-6-inch Nashville star said.

Retirees ask for better health care

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, April 16, 2003) — The Army Chief of Staff's Retiree Council closed its 43rd meeting April 11 with a report citing health care and communication as the two primary concerns of retirees Armywide.

The CSA Retiree Council, co-chaired by retired Lt. Gen. John A. Dubia and retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Robert E. Hall, is made up of 14 members: seven retired officers and seven retired enlisted soldiers. Prospective members are nominated by their installation retiree councils and approved by the Army chief of staff.

At its annual meeting — held April 7-11 this year — the council reviews issues forwarded by installation councils and determines which should be reported to the chief of staff and which can be addressed at the installation level. Of the 65 issues submitted this year, 21 concerned health care.

The council also urged the chief of staff to support:

- (a) concurrent receipt of military retired pay and disability compensation and quick implementation of Combat-Related Special Compensation;
- (b) elimination of the reduction to the Survivor Benefit Plan annuity at age 62 to the maximum extent allowed by law and legislative language and acceleration of the start date of the paid-up provision of the plan;
- (c) a study group reviewing retirement benefits for the National Guard and Reserve; and
- (d) continued full-funding of TRICARE for Life.

The council stated that TRICARE for Life and TRICARE Senior Pharmacy have met many beneficiaries' expectations, but that other improvements need to be made. The council's suggestions include raising TRICARE reimbursement levels; eliminating TRICARE Prime co-payments for retirees and family members under 65; extending TRICARE Prime and retiree dental insurance to retirees outside the continental United States; expanding TRICARE information campaigns; waiving late enrollment fees for Medicare Part B; and improving the relationship between DoD and the Department of Veterans Affairs health care departments.

The council's communications goals include both facets of the Retirement Services mission - preparing soldiers and families for retirement and continuing to support retirees and families as part of the Army after retirement.

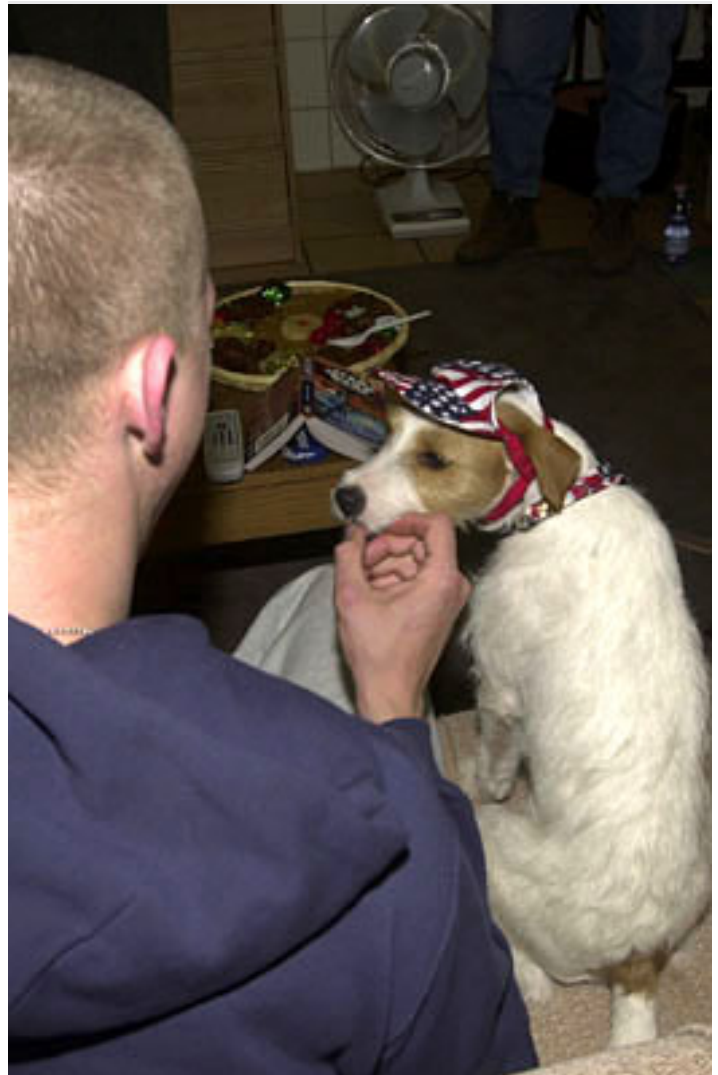
One communications goal is quarterly funding of Army Echoes, the Army's bulletin for retirees and the only communications link that reaches all retirees, families and survivors.

The other goal is using a variety of media — Internet, videotape and CD-ROM — to educate active-duty soldiers and families about retirement. This communications effort targets not only those who are about to retire, but also those making military career decisions.

The technology would help Retirement Services Officers

communicate with more soldiers and families with information on topics such as the Survivor Benefit Plan and the Career Status Bonus, officials said. They said this information would also enhance professional training programs for commanders and senior non-commissioned officers, most importantly those attending installation command and management courses.

The council presented its concerns to Gen. John M. Keane, Army vice chief of staff, since Shinseki was unable to attend April 11 because of commitments related to the war in Iraq. The co-chairmen of the council said they will meet periodically with the chief of staff during the year to discuss the progress that has been made on issues.



CANINE COMFORT — Vixon, a service dog, visits with a wounded service member in the United Services Organization room at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, April 11. The USO set up a comfort lounge with television, internet access, snacks, drinks, games and books for the wounded service members who are in the process of being flown back to the United States after getting hurt in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Cherie McNeill

A Singer, a song and America's armed forces continued

Instead, he went on to college and majored in chemistry and biology, a field he worked in for a few years before deciding to pursue a music career. Ultimately, his music led him to a first-hand look at the military during combat operations in Afghanistan.

Worley went on the 2002 Holiday USO Tour, he said, and "the conflict in Afghanistan was raging still when we were there."

"For all we knew, the war in Afghanistan was over," he said, "but it's still not over."

The singer is open to a return there. "That really isn't that much for me to do," he said. "We're probably going to do it again this year, if the opportunity presents itself.

"You don't know what you're getting into until you step out there on that stage and see 2,000 troops out there with rifles slung over their shoulders," he said. "Then it hits you, and you go, 'What was I thinking? Do I really think I can entertain these guys? They've been out on the Pakistan border dodging rockets.' It's a real humbling feeling." Worley said he and his guitar player spent a lot of time with the troops during the trip.

"We pretty much didn't sleep the whole time we were gone," the singer said.

"We stayed up and we'd be somewhere in some tent or some compound visiting with the troops pretty much all night long. I can remember lying down for maybe an hour at 3:30 in the morning, just trying to grab an hour of sleep before I had to shower and hit the road for some other place."

The music men and the troops would "just talk like normal people" he said. "They're just real guys and gals like me," he said. "They'd ask me where I was from and how long I'd been doing the music

thing.

"I could tell that they were really happy and somewhat distracted from the tension maybe for a few moments just because we were there, and that's how you know you're doing what you're supposed to be doing as an entertainer," he said.

Worley noted people are still laying it on the line in Afghanistan every day. "They're on the job and it's a serious time, but you could tell that they're able to let down the guard a little bit and relax and they say those few minutes, that time, is worth a million dollars to them."

Without a doubt, he said, the trip was the most incredible experience of his life, and it's changed his life in many ways. Entertaining the troops, he added, is now his way of "sharing a little bit in the responsibility" and doing his part.

"It could never compare to what these soldiers do," he said. "It's only like a grain of sand in the whole desert."

Worley said he shares the troops' "fighting spirit" and feels like he should be "in the thick of it with them. ... Just being with them and seeing that character that they have, it's like you and I have it, but we really haven't been asked to reach down deep inside and pull it out and use it. That's the thing that sets them apart."

The singer said he can't express in words how much it means to him to be an American and to live in a country full of luxuries and freedoms "knowing full well that the only reason we have those things is because these men and women lay their lives on the line for us."

"It's an honorable thing," he concluded. "It's a brave and courageous thing, and they do it for all the right reasons. And the way they look at it, it's just their job."



Country music star Darryl Worley (right) signs autographs for two service members at the Pentagon April 16. Defense Dept. photo by Helene C. Stikkel



Two military nurses sit with their colleagues before a ceremony to mark the dispatch of medical troops to Iraq, at a military base in Gwangju, east of Seoul, South Korea Thursday April 17, 2003. Ninety of the medical personnel will depart for Iraq on April 30, while an initial deployment of 10 medical personnel and 10 engineers left for Iraq Thursday to prepare for some of the 600 troops South Korea has committed to support the U.S. led alliance. (AP Photo/Greg Baker)

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Buyers beware: The real Iraq ‘most wanted’ cards are still awaiting distribution continued

supplied PDF files to manufacture “collector’s items.”

Many others, however, are presenting dubious claims, including sellers who are selling electronic links to the PDF site — something any computer user with access to a search engine could quickly locate.

One set of cards offered by a London seller calling himself “nievescurran” had 25 bidders by midafternoon Tuesday, with the price of the deck up to more than \$360 — and eight days still to go on the sale.

The seller crows in a paragraph lifted verbatim from the listing: “Yes I all ready have them hot of the press and fresh out of the Pentagon hands,” the seller crows. Another eBay seller, “kvndoom,” from Newport News, Va., claims to have cards “printed by the same company that supplies these cards to the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait!”

That’s not possible, Brooks said, because DIA gave the cards to CENTCOM, not the embassy, and has never had the cards printed by a commercial contractor.

Bracing for a mass order of the cards from CENTCOM, DIA did identify a possible contractor, Hoyle, a subsidiary of American Playing Card Co. But that contract was never signed, Brooks said.

A woman who answered the telephone for American Playing Cards in Cincinnati, Ohio, on Tuesday confirmed that the company is not making the Iraq playing cards.

Calling the cards that are for sale on eBay fakes would be splitting

legal hairs, because the PDF files are authentic.

“I am not a lawyer,” Brooks said.

But the eBay cards are not — can’t be — the 200 DIA cards that exist, Brooks said.

“Everything that’s on eBay aren’t cards we printed up,” Brooks said. “Those are electronic files that people downloaded for free.”

In a telephone interview from eBay’s San Jose, Calif., headquarters Tuesday, eBay spokesman Kevin Pursglove said he was unaware of the limited supply of “most wanted” cards, and the fact they have yet to be distributed.

“We do seem to get into a questionable area here,” Pursglove said, adding that he planned to refer the Iraqi card issue to eBay’s special team of customer service agents.

If eBay sellers are violating the law by offering government property for sale, or eBay selling rules, which do not allow sellers to offer items not in their physical possession (such as PDF files in the public domain), “eBay would remove” the listings, Pursglove said.

Brooks, meanwhile, said he has no opinion about the people who are making a buck off the PDF files.

“It’s kind of an interesting phenomenon,” he said.

But he did have one piece of advice: “Caveat Emptor.” Let the buyer beware.